

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00087 071514Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /052 W
-----071547Z 104463 /43
R 071446Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2693
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, LE, US, PINT
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT SARKIS' NEW YEARS DAY RECEPTION

1. ON JAN 6, CHARGE ATTENDED PRESIDENT SARKIS' NEW YEARS DAY RECEPTION FOR DIPLOMATIC CORPS. TWENTY-FIVE AMBASSADORS (26, IF STANDARD DOUBLE REPRESENTATION OF PRC IS COUNTED TWICE) AND 15 CHARGES WERE PRESENT, MARKING LARGEST ASSEMBLAGE OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN BEIRUT IN MANY MONTHS. LARGE MAJORITY, INCLUDING US CHARGE, WERE IN MORNING COAT AND STRIPED PANTS, AS REQUESTED BY PRESIDENT SARKIS. RECEPTION WAS FORMALLY ORGANIZED, WITH MEMBERS DIP CORPS BEING PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS ACCORDING TO ORDER OF PRECEDENCE, AFTER PASSING THROUGH HONOR GUARD WITH RAISED SABRES. FOLLOWING FORMAL PRESENTATIONS, PAPAL NUNCIO, WHO IS DEAN OF THE CORPS, GAVE 15-MINUTE SERMON TO PRESIDENT SARKIS ON IMPORTANCE OF MORAL PRINCIPLES IN RECONSTRUCTION OF LEBANON IN HIS VERY ITALIANATE FRENCH. PRESIDENT SARKIS REPLIED, ALSO IN FRENCH, WITH SHORT STATEMENT DECLARING HE WOULD BE GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLES OF LIBERTY, THE STRENGTHENING OF THE POWER OF THE STATE AND THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM IN HIS EFFORTS TO BRING PEACE AND STABILITY TO LEBANON. THE PRESIDENT ALSO THANKED SYRIA AND THE OTHER ARAB STATES FOR THEIR

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SUPPORT FOR THE REESTABLISHMENT OF ORDER AND CALLED ON ALL OF LEBANON'S FRIENDS FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

2. COMMENT. WE UNDERSTAND PRESIDENT SARKIS WAS ANXIOUS TO GO AHEAD WITH FORMAL RECEPTION THIS YEAR, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS SLIGHTLY DELAYED, AS A SIGN OF LEBANON'S RETURN TO NORMALCY. LARGE TURN-OUT OF

DIPLOMATIC CORPS, MANY OF WHOM ARE NOW RESIDENT IN
SURROUNDING COUNTRIES SUCH AS CYPRUS AND JORDAN,
ILLUSTRATES DESIRE OF MANY COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT SARKIS
IN THIS EFFORT.
LANE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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